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CIA 4.01 ASSASSINATION

org: MAFIA

Price on Castro's Head \$100,000?

Associated Press

The CIA was prepared to pay the Mafia as much as \$100,000 to kill Cuban Premier Fidel Castro at the time of the 1961 Bay of Pigs invasion, according to informed investigators.

However, the money was turned down by underworld figures Sam Giancana and John Rosselli, who agreed to undertake the mission for free, investigative sources said yesterday.

As a result of the proposal, the CIA paid out "less than \$10,000, perhaps less than \$5,000" in expense money in the scheme to poison Castro, sources said.

Two sources said Rosselli testified earlier this year before the Senate intelligence committee that he turned down the money because he felt he was performing a patriotic duty.

However, one of those sources said he was skeptical of Rosselli's expressed patriotism, pointing out

that Castro's death was "probably worth more than \$100,000 to him" as a necessary first step toward regaining the Mafia's extensive gambling interests in pre-Castro Cuba.

Published reports last summer also suggested the Mafia had been told it could recover \$750,000 supposedly buried in Cuba at the time of the Castro takeover. In addition, the reports said, the Mafia would have been allowed to resume gambling operations under a new Cuban regime.

Giancana, a Chicago rackets chief, was murdered earlier this year and never testified before the Senate committee. Many details of the 1971 plot were made public last July by Robert A. Maheu, a former aide to billionaire Howard Hughes.